Charles Paul "Chuck" Blahous III is the J. Fish and Lillian F. Smith Chair and Senior Research Strategist at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, as well as a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. From 2010 to 2015 he served as one of two public trustees for the Social Security and Medicare programs. Dr. Blahous was Deputy Director of the National Economic Council under President George W. Bush from 2007 to 2009, previously serving from 2001 to 2007 as a Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. Prior to that, he served from 1996 to 2000 as Policy Director for Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire. Between 1989 and 1996, Dr. Blahous worked for Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming, first as a Congressional Science Fellow in 1989-1990, then as a legislative assistant from 1990-94 and as Legislative Director in 1994-1996. His writing has been published by entities including economics21.org, University of Chicago Press, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Roll Call, Harvard Journal on Legislation, Journal of Chemical Physics and Baseball Research Journal. His media appearances range from the Diane Rehm Show to C-Span's Washington Journal to Fox News. Dr. Blahous is the author of the books Social Security: The Unfinished Work and Pension Wise, both published in 2010 by Hoover Institution Press. Dr. Blahous served from 2014-16 on the Bipartisan Policy Center's Commission on Retirement Security and Personal Savings and has continued to work with the BPC as a shadow trustee monitoring the finances of Social Security and Medicare. He has published studies with the Mercatus Center on subjects including the federal budget costs of Medicare for All, the fiscal ramifications of the Affordable Care Act, the origins of federal deficits, the multiemployer pension solvency crisis, the implications of health care inflation for Medicare financing, Social Security benefit adequacy, work incentives and self-financing, and the incentives facing states with respect to expanding Medicaid. He writes frequently on budget issues with a focus on Social Security and federal health programs. Dr. Blahous holds a Ph.D. in computational quantum chemistry from the University of California/Berkeley and also an A.B. in chemistry from Princeton University, where he won the McKay physical chemistry prize.